

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DLOS-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

COA-01 COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 NSF-01 OES-03 ACDA-05

AEC-05 AGR-05 FMC-01 INT-05 JUSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01

CEA-01 OIC-02 /102 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7571

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5153

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, UN

SUBJECT: LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

1. IN DISCUSSION 18NOV, HALL(LOS CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY) CONFIRMED THAT AGUILAR HAS DEFINITELY DECLINED SYG'S OFFER TO SUCCEED STAVROPOULOS AS SYG'S SPECIAL REP TO LOS CONFERENCE. WALDHEIM HAS OFFERED THE POST TO CASTANEDA BUT NO ANSWER HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED. HALL SAID THAT, WHILE THERE ARE AT LEAST A FEW OTHER QUALIFIED PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE, PRESSURE FOR UNQUALIFIED OFFICE-SEEKERS COULD BECOME INTENSE WERE CASTANEDA ALSO TO DECLINE.

2. HALL SAID AMERASINGHE HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH UNDER SYG FOR ADMINISTRATION DAVIDSON BEST WAY TO PRESERVE POSSIBILITY OF SUBSTANTIAL CONFERENCE WORK FOLLOWING GENEVA SESSION. (WEO'S ARE NO LONGER PRESSING POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENT TO CURRENT AMERASINGHE DRAFT RES IN LIGHT OF TURNDOWN BY GROUP OF 77 OF "FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS" LANGUAGE; HALL THOUGHT WEO'S WOULD BE UNWISE TO DO

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MENTS" LANGUAGE; HALL THOUGHT WEO'S WOULD BE UNWISE TO DO

SO BECAUSE OF CERTAIN FAILURE AND ITS DIVISIVE CONSEQUENCES.) ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED, HE THOUGHT AMERASINGHE AND DAVIDSON ARE CONSIDERING PLANNING FOR A QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY A DEL IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE AS TO POSSIBILITY OF MEETINGS FOLLOWING GENEVA. ANSWER WOULD BE GIVEN THAT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD TRY TO PLAN FOR MEETINGS (IN NEW YORK) THAT COULD INCLUDE SOME 3 OR 4 SERVICED MTGS/DAY (IE WITH SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION AND SUMMARY RECOMRDS). THIS COULD ACCOMMODATE ON A DAILY BASIS CONFERENCE PLENARY, 1 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND 1 OR MORE INFORMAL CONSULTATION REGIONAL GROUP SESSIONS. HALL WAS NOT SURE WHO WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION IN THE FIFTH COMMITTEE; A SMALL COUNTRY QUESTIONER MIGHT ELICIT THE MOST FAVORABLE RESPONSE. IN ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION, HALL SAID THE SECRETARIAT IS ALSO TRYING TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR A THREE-WEEK CONFERENCE SESSION AT CARACAS ON THE SAME BASIS OF SERVICING 3 OR 54 MTHGS/DAY.

3. HALL NOTED THAT AMERASINGHE WILL NOT PROPOSE THE DRAFT LOS RES TO UNGA; THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR A UN CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS DOING SO AND IT COULD BE QUITE UNDESIREABLE WHEN APPLIED TO FUTURE CONFERENCES. DRAFT RES WILL THUS APPEAR IN CONVENTIONAL FORM WITH THE COSPONSORSHIP OF A NUMBER OF MEMBERS. HE HOPED ENOUGH WEO'S WOULD JOIN LDC'S IN SPONSORING SO THAT RESULT WOULD NOT APPEAR PARTISAN. THE MATTER WOULD NOT COME UP IN PLENARY THIS WEEK AND IN VIEW OF REQUIREMENT OF ACABQ/FIFTH COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION, IT MIGHT NOT BE READY FOR PLENARY UNTIL BEGINNING OF DEC.

4. HALL SAID HE APPRECIATES CONCERN OF US FOR CONFERENCE SESSIONS ADDITIONAL TO GENEVA BUT SUGGESTED THAT SUCH SESSION COULD BE HARMFUL IF RESULTS ACHIEVED IN GENEVA WERE NOT SUBSTANTIAL. HE VENTURED TO SUGGEST THAT IN THAT CIRCUMSTANCE MARITIME POWERS MIGHT PREFER LESS-THAN-CONCRETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CONFERENCE SESSION FOLLOW-ON IN LAST HALF OF 1975.

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5. WHEN, LATER THE SAME DAY, AMBASSADOR STEVENSON TALKED TO PRESIDENT AMERASHINGHE, THE LATTER CONFIRMED HE HAS SPOKEN WITH UNDER SYG DAVIDSON WHO AGREED, ASSUMING AN APPROPRIATE REQUEST FROM THE FLOOR, TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT POST-GENEVA SESSION COULD BE HELD. IN RESPONSE TO STEVENSON'S QUESTION, AMERASHINGHE DID NOT THINK THE SECRETARIAT ASSURANCE WOULD GIVE RISE TO OBJECTION SINCE THE 1973 LOS RES SPEAKS OF CONVENING "NOT LATER THAN 1975

ANY SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS AS MAY BE DECIDED UPON
BY THE CONFERENCE AND APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY"
(PARA . 4, RES 3067). AMERASHINGHE SAID HE WILL ARRANGE
FOR A SYMPATHETIC DEL TO ASK THE NECESSARY QUESTION
IN COMMITTEE FIVE. WHILE HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED HIS OWN
FORMULATION FOR POST-GENEVA WORK, HE THOUGH CURRENT PLAN
CONSTITUTED BEST OBTAINABLE RESULT.
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